

NOME PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1565
Nome, AK 99762

Minutes of January 21, 2013

President, Julie Kelso called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m., in the Nome Elementary School library. The following individuals were in attendance:

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| Brandy Arrington | Pat Robinson |
| Betsy Brennan | Pam Smith |
| Nina Grimes | Janeen Sullivan |
| Robert Grimes | Crystal Tobuk |
| Julie Kelso | Roy Tobuk III |
| Karen Mehl | |

Approval of September 24, 2012 Minutes

Nina Grimes moved to approve the minutes with a spelling correction. Second by Betsy Brennan. No discussion. Minutes approved.

Resolution 13-01

President, Julie Kelso presented Resolution 13-01 to open a Nome PTA savings and checking account at Credit Union 1. Credit Union 1 has consistently higher interest rates than our current bank, Wells Fargo. Funds currently held in savings and checking accounts at Wells Fargo will be moved to Credit Union 1. Our certificate of deposit at Wells Fargo will be moved upon maturity, unless the fee for early withdrawal is not substantial. Betsy Brennan moved to approve Resolution 13-01. Second by Nina Grimes. No discussion. Resolution passed.

eScrip Program

We will be enrolling PTA in the eScrip program to help raise funds for our organization.

Treasurer's Report

The year to date actual expenses were compared to the budget. We made a little more than expected on the birthday calendar. We have enough money for another reading incentive program at Nome Elementary. Our annually recurring expenditures for spelling bee and scholarships have not yet taken place this year.

Spelling Bee

Spelling Bee participation is at an all time high this year. As a result, we will be having the elementary and junior high bees on separate nights, rather than combined. The elementary bee is January 30 and the junior high bee is January 31. Both bees will be held in the elementary school commons beginning at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed for both nights of the spelling bee. Julie will email members with volunteer opportunities.

Elementary Science Fair

The Nome Elementary School Science Fair is scheduled for the next to last week of school. No specific day of the week has yet been set. Nome Elementary principal, Robert Grimes explained that the event will be classroom based. Students will be working on projects in groups within their classrooms. It is not expected to be a competitive event with individual prizes. However, the possibility of students working individually, if they so chose, was not ruled out. Mr. Conger is the school contact with the PTA committee of Marguerite, Brandy and Pam. Mr. Grimes will ensure that PTA committee members are included in planning the science fair and will arrange for a meeting with the committee and Mr. Conger.

Marguerite stated that some parents have expressed an interest in having their child prepare their own project, with the possibility of competing in the state science fair. Karen Mehl said that she had experience sending high school students to a state science fair, but it was a pre-requisite that they win at their school level. No definitive answer was given as to how Nome Elementary students might be enabled to compete at the state science fair.

Elementary Reading Incentive Program

Julie presented statistics for the latest program, *Elect to Read*, and also the previous *Iditaread* program. Participation percentages for kindergarten through 4th grade were 67% and 65% for the two programs, respectively. Comparative percentages for 5th and 6th grade are not available. It was noted that participation among 5th and 6th graders is typically low, although Mrs. Marvin's 5th grade class did have a 50% participation rate in the *Elect to Read* program. A discussion ensued as to how the program might be changed to appeal to 5th and 6th graders.

Family Involvement Night - February

Mr. Grimes described an anticipated "Family Involvement Night" in February at Nome Elementary School whereby teachers would model and explain effective reading strategies for parents to use with their children. Julie asked how PTA might help with the event. Assistance with publicizing the event and providing refreshments were named as two possibilities.

Read Across America - March 4th

This nationwide event coincides with Dr. Suess's birthday. There will be a celebration at Nome Elementary. Parents will be invited to come in and read with their children.

Nome Elementary School Honor Roll

An elementary honor roll was suggested at the last PTA meeting. Mr. Grimes stated that teachers on the whole were not in favor of an honor roll at Nome Elementary. Discussion followed as to ways that an honor roll might be structured to account for different grading methods and students working at different levels. The issue remains open.

Meeting Adjourned